

## Learning Points – Find the 11<sup>th</sup> Trick

by Steve Moese (Mike Purcell ed.)

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Declarer Play LEVEL: Basic/Intermediate

West Deals  
NS Vul  
MPs

♠ 6  
♥ K752  
♦ A82  
♣ J8742

Steve

♠ A852  
♥ AJ93  
♦ Q  
♣ A953

N  
W 12 E  
S

♠ KQJ103  
♥ 64  
♦ J763  
♣ K6

Ron

♠ 974  
♥ Q108  
♦ K10954  
♣ Q10

EW: 2NT, 5♣  
NS: 1♦

West	North	East	South
2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	All Pass		

South leads ♠9

1= 11-15 HCP and 0/1♦  
43/34/44 in majors 14/05 in minors

Standard/or 2/IGF Auction:

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	All Pass

one hand is often a good attack. However the ♠9 promotes dummy's ♠8 - so score all trumps individually on a high cross ruff.

After winning the ♠A, declarer plays the ♦Q from dummy, won by North. North switches to a ♣ won in hand by declarer with the ♣K. A ♣ to the ♣A (noting the fall of the ♣10 and ♣Q from South) does not deter East from the cross ruff – East's trumps are high. Cashing the ♥A then ruffing ♣s and ♦s leads to 11 tricks. South did well to pitch away all ♦s on ♣ ruffs on this hand – a good tactic when facing a cross ruff is to pitch cards in the suit declarer is ruffing so you can over ruff. However pitching the ♦K set up the ♦J in East's hand so it was an easy matter to draw 2 rounds of trump and cash the good ♦ at the end. Either way careful play leads to 11 tricks +450 for EW worth 6.5 of 7 MPs.

NS Pair	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MPs	2	2	6.5	2		6.5		2	2	2
Score	420	420	450	420		450		420	420	420

### Post Mortem

Players who draw trump on this hand face fewer extra trump tricks and have to fall back on the ♥ finesses. After 3 rounds of trump are drawn declarer cannot avoid losing 2 ♦s and a ♥.

Regardless of bidding system, West's hand is the equivalent of 16 Support Points once East responds 1♠ (13 HCP + 3 SPs for the singleton ♦. Do NOT count 2 HCP for the stiff ♦Q.) Invite Game!

### Learning Points

1. Always consider a cross ruff – scoring trumps singly often produces more tricks than developing weak 4-2 suits. Be sure to cash side suit winners before ruffing or opponents might ruff your winners later!
2. When partner responds a major and you have an opening hand, 4 card support with a side singleton, be sure to invite game. Your hand just got bigger.

Key Words: Support Points, High Cross Ruff, Trump Opening Lead, Discard Declarer's Ruffing Suit

Tuesday Evening May 18, 2010, Club Championship. Mr. Michael Lipp Director. Cincinnati Bridge Association Bridge Center, 2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 631-8070. My partner is Ron Babcock. We play Precision.

A sound major suit game in a revealing auction prompts declarer to find the overtrick. Count tricks before drawing trumps.

### The Bidding

West's opening bid limited and shows a narrow shape set: 3415, 4315, 4414, 4405. This convention is required by Precision since 1♣ is strong artificial and forcing (we cannot open West's hand 1♣) and 1 of a Major promises 5 cards. Some Precision players fold these hands into their 1♦ opening. The Standard sequence should be common. Note if West undervalues the hand for ♠s, East has enough to invite in his/her own right.

### The Play

This should be a common game. East can count 1 loser in ♥s and 1 in ♦s, but there are only 8 Top Winners. *When the total of winners plus losers is less than 13, look to score trumps separately.* The trump lead appears to take away a ruff in dummy. Leading trumps when declarer is likely to have an 8 or 9 card fit and a singleton in